

# History, Hopes & Dreams

<http://gracechapelbrockton.org/>



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**GROWING** **TOGETHER**  
*in Christ Jesus*

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# WHO WE ARE

## GROWING TOGETHER

**Grace Chapel Brockton (GCB)** is a community of people with differences, beloved by God.

We celebrate the beauty of our uniqueness in Christ while breaking down the walls created by our differences. As our Warden Rachel Yero-kun puts it, Grace Chapel is where we come together “for the same goal of wholeness.”

We are an intergenerational community of liberals and conservatives. Black, white, and brown. Immigrants and citizens. We are multi-lingual, praying and worshipping in many tongues.

We wrestle with the complexity of our times together. We strive to embody the lion and the lamb as expressed in Christ.

Our roots are in Episcopal and Anglican traditions. We open our arms wide to Pentecostals, Evangelicals, and people who simply identify as Christians. Our worship is both quiet and contemplative, loud and charismatic.

We make the most of every opportunity to celebrate, have fun, and enjoy the companionship of our siblings in Christ.

We respond to our community's needs. We commit ourselves to youth development, women's empowerment, and men's encouragement. We support the reunion of families and create a sense of communal living.

Above all, we meet people where they are. When we meet each other where we are, we grow together – with Jesus Christ our Savior as our example in all things.



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# PRAYER

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## For Mission

*O gracious and loving God, you work everywhere reconciling, loving and healing your people and creation. In your Son and through the power of your Holy Spirit, you invite each of us to join you in your work. We, young and old, lay and ordained, ask you to form us more and more in your image and likeness, through our prayer and worship of you and through the study of your Scripture, that our eyes will be fully opened to your mission in the world. Then, God, into our communities, our nation, and the world, send us to serve with Christ, taking risks to give life and hope to all people and all of your creation. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.*

## A Word from REV. MOSES



**To friends old and new:** Welcome. This past year, 2020, Grace Chapel Brockton celebrated its 10th Anniversary. Now is a sacred time for Grace Chapel as we share our gratitude, reflect on our history, and envision our future.

In these pages, we will share with you who we are, show you where we've been, and invite you to step into the future with us. You will discover that it is God's providence and a vast network of faithful people which helped bring Grace Chapel into being. This ever-expanding network has sustained our church over these 10 years.

I write to you as a Grace-filled, adventurous child of God and a living witness to His favor. As one to whom much has been given and therefore much is expected. For this reason, I strive daily to remain faithful to the grace which has brought me thus far.

My gratitude runs as deep as Grace Chapel's roots – roots that took hold long before we opened our doors in 2010. I feel deeply grateful to our bishops and the entire Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts.

I also want to offer my profound gratitude to my bishop and the entire Anglican Church of Nigeria, and for my spiritual education in both Nigeria and the United States.

I am so grateful to the people of Brockton, and for the Grace Chapel community. Although she is what some might call a small church, Grace Chapel has touched so many lives. It is all of you – including you, reader – who help Grace Chapel grow, like the wheat in the Parable of the Weeds.

Found in Matthew 13:24-30, the Parable of the Weeds is Jesus' story of a farmer who sows good seed in a field. While the farmer sleeps, an enemy comes and sows weeds among the wheat. Now, the weeds and wheat grow together, their roots intertwining. The farmer tells his slaves to do nothing until harvest time. If they were to intervene before harvest, they risked uprooting the wheat.

Upon first glance, this parable is simple – but look closer, and it is challenging. What farmer would let weeds grow among their wheat? But this farmer is wise and patient.

This parable illustrates how vital patience and humility are, especially in times of division and unrest. The parable warns us: don't condemn and demonize others! Don't assume the messianic role! God, the farmer, has defeated the enemy before and will defeat him again, if only we listen to his sage counsel. Grow together, and wait. God will sort it out.

At Grace Chapel, we strive to follow God's command to grow together! Conservatives and liberals. Immigrants and citizens. People from every race, class, culture, and nation. People who worship in quiet and contemplation, and people who worship with dancing and shouts of joy. Let us all grow together, as God's children.

Thank you for reading and celebrating our 10th Anniversary with us. As we enter our second decade of ministry in Brockton, I pray you will grow with Grace Chapel in whatever way God is calling you to. We give thanks to God for His providence and mercy. Hallelujah! Amen.

Your brother in Christ,  
**Moses Sowale**



**Rachel Olayemi Yerokun** was born and raised in Ibadan, Nigeria and lived there until immigrating to the U.S. in 1990. The daughter of an Anglican priest, faith has always been an important part of Rachel's life. Her father's strong faith in God paved the way for her own.

After coming to the U.S., Rachel graduated from Roxbury Community College with an Associate degree. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Nursing from UMass Boston.

Rachel found Grace Chapel Brockton (GCB) in 2011, when her children began attending GCB's Brigade Youth Program. She felt encouraged to become a member not only because of her children's involvement in the Brigade, but because of what GCB stands for in the community: outreach for men, women, and children.

She currently serves as Warden at GCB. Growing up with eight siblings sparked Rachel's love for children, which led her to become one of the patronesses of the Brigade and the coordinator for field trips.

Rachel currently works at CareOne in Newton, MA. She has remained a loyal member of GCB and supports all the church's programs. Rachel will continue to let God lead her and positively influence those around her.

**Rachel Olayemi Yerokun**  
Warden I

Executive Committee Member



**Mrs. Agnes Adepoju**  
**Warden II**

Executive Committee Member



Agnes Adepoju was born in 1954 to Pa Salami Alloh and Sabitiu Omosofe Alloh (née Awodogan) in Ikare Akoko, North of Ondo State in Nigeria. The eldest of two girls in a Muslim family, Agnes went on to become a Christian.

Agnes began her primary education in 1960 at a local Authority Demonstration School. Though illiterate, Mrs. Sabitiu valued education and wanted her daughters to pursue their studies. She knew Agnes needed a strong role model to excel in her education. Agnes' mother sent her to live with her uncle, Mr. Olusola Awodogan, a teacher.

Eventually, Agnes gained admission to Ansar-ud-deen Grammar School and went on to teach from 1971 to 1972. She then attended St. John/Mary Teachers' College in Owo from 1973 to 1974. When Agnes was posted to Lalupon in 1971, she met the love of her life, Amos Adepoju, whom she married in 1976. Agnes taught for years at Queen of Apostle secondary school in Ibadan.

The Adepojus eventually relocated to Boston, MA. Agnes has been a faithful member of GCB since its founding. She has served in various capacities, including the coordinator for Bible Studies and now as Warden.

Agnes, independent and opinionated, is the stronghold that glues her family together. While she will set someone straight if she thinks they are going in the wrong direction, she loves unconditionally.

## Gretchen Umholtz, Treasurer

Gretchen Umholtz was born in Glen Ridge, New Jersey. She grew up in various parts of the country, but always in the Presbyterian Church, in which her father was an ordained minister. Upon moving to southeastern Massachusetts (where Presbyterian churches are rare) in 2002 she began worshipping at Church of Our Saviour, Middleboro, and was confirmed into the Episcopal Church in 2003.

Gretchen teaches Classics (including ancient Greek art, language, and culture) at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. Since 2006 she has lived in Brockton, with her husband and dog. She was one of the founding members of Grace Chapel and has served many roles since, including Clerk, Warden, and currently Treasurer. Gretchen enjoys music, gardening, time with family, and travel in Greece.

**Gretchen Umholtz,  
Treasurer**

Executive Committee Member





**Joyce Skeete**  
**Assistant Treasurer**

Executive Committee Member



## Joyce Skeete, Assistant Treasurer

Joyce Skeete was born and raised in the beautiful island of Barbados, where she maintains close ties with family and friends. After immigrating to the U.S. to further her studies in travel management, she gained employment with a major airline.

Joyce has worshipped at GCB for the last five years and is an active member of the Abigails Program. She supports GCB's ministries as Assistant Treasurer. In her free time, she enjoys reading, crafts, traveling, and encouraging others to maintain a healthy lifestyle.



**Oluwafemi Christopher Alayo**  
**Clerk**

Executive Committee Member

## Oluwafemi Christopher Alayo, Clerk

After completing his education in Nigeria, Oluwafemi Christopher Alayo relocated to the U.S. with his family. GCB's Rachel Yerokun introduced Oluwafemi and his family to the church. He works in the healthcare sector as a Human Rights Officer and supports GCB in his work as Clerk. Oluwafemi loves driving, exploring, and being with his family.

**Herlande Sineus  
Youth Representative**



Herlande Sineus was born in 2002 in the Dominican Republic, and raised in Haiti. She currently lives in Boston, MA. In 2016, she and her best friend were on their way to a party, and her friend told her aunty they were going to church.

The woman didn't believe her niece as it was nearly 9 o'clock when they left the house. She had her nephew follow Herlande and her friend, and they ended up at GCB.

Herlande, her friend and her friend's brother ended up staying and talked to Rev. Moses. This conversation led Herlande to attend and fall in love with the church. In addition to serving on the Executive Committee, Herlande serves on the Brigade Youth Program Advisory Board, as the Curious Group leader in the Abigails Program, and sings in the choir.

After college, Herlande wants to work as a Child Psychologist and in Criminal Psychology. She is a wonderful writer soon to finish her first book called All About Her. Through telling her own story, she hopes to inspire young women like herself. In her free time, she loves listening to music, going to the gym, and watching Netflix.

**Adeoye Solarin,  
Executive Committee Person**



Adeoye Solarin was born into the family of Chief Solarin of Isara Remo, Ogun State, and raised in Lagos State. Adeoye found the Almighty God when he was wandering "in the wilderness of life." The challenges he faced strengthened his faith, and enabled him to serve God with all his might.

Adeoye joined GCB in 2015, and has supported the church in several capacities. Currently, he serves on the Executive Committee, on the Transportation Committee, as usher, and volunteers with the Brigade Youth Program. He is a prayer warrior and advocate for a drug-free and safe community.

A lifelong scholar, Adeoye considers it a wonderful opportunity to come to the U.S. and further his quest for knowledge and achievement in the medical field. Adeoye is a father who loves all children and a great listener.

**Victoria Edouard  
Executive Committee Person**



Victoria Edouard was born in 2001 in Haiti. At the age of 13, she moved to the United States with her parents and two younger siblings. She speaks three languages fluently: English, Haitian Creole, and French.

She is currently a sophomore at Bristol Community College in Massachusetts, where she is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Dental Hygiene. While in school, she works full time as a Medical Record Specialist at CuraHealth Stoughton and works part time as a Dining Server at Brightview Senior Living.

Victoria still makes time to volunteer at GCB. She is the Explorers Group leader in the Abigails Program, sings in the choir, and supports various other parish activities.

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## Our Staff

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**Patricia Druineaud,**  
Administrative Assistant

**Patricia's** wealth of experience in education, administration, and the medical field makes her an invaluable addition to the GCB family.

Patricia joined our administrative staff in July 2020. She is involved in the local school system, serving as a Monitor Teacher Assistant for the Brockton Public School Department since 2019 and as the advisor for the National Honor Society Brocktonian Chapter for Brockton High School.

Patricia graduated from the New England Institute of Art with a BSc in Graphic Design. She has also completed an Emergency Medical Technician program from National Medical Education & Training.

Mom to four girls, Patricia enjoys art, music, and her family. Her work is integral to realizing GCB's vision of meeting people where they are through the love of Jesus Christ.

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**Mike Weidenfeller** has been an active member of the New England music community for over 25 years. He has regularly performed on and taught guitar, piano, bass, drums, and organ. He received his Bachelor of Music from Boston's Berklee College of Music, and his Master of Music from Cambridge's Longy School of Music at



**Mike Weidenfeller**  
Music Director

Since 2011, Mike has taught middle and high school students at Dana Hall in Wellesley. He has produced albums by the bands Babaloo, Looker, The Cha Cha Cha Allstars, Woza Moya, as well as the What's Growing in Concord? soundtrack and Corporate Video music. His music has been featured in FX's The Shield, ABC's Beautiful People, Next Stop Wonderland, The Music Man, NPR's Hear and Now, What's Growing in Concord?, Change for Children, and the That's Amore Italy National ad campaign.

He has been the organist and choir director at Grace Chapel since 2011. Although his son is a big music fan, he prefers to do parkour and can do both front and back flips.

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## Our Staff

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**Linda Pierce,**  
Bookkeeper

Linda had been actively involved in the church her entire life. For 43 years, she worked in the printing industry. In 2015, her company closed, and she found a posting for the Administrative Assistant position at GCB. In early 2016 she began working at GCB, and served as the Administrative Assistant for two years. During that time, she took over the task of bookkeeping.

After Linda retired as Administrative Assistant, she continued supporting GCB with bookkeeping. In 2019, she was officially named Bookkeeper, and serves on the Finance Committee.

Linda is an active church member and associates with several local Episcopal churches. She and her husband Michael, who teaches guitar for the Brigade Youth Program, have been married for 50 years. They have two adult children.

An avid quilter, she keeps busy making banners and blankets. Linda and her dog can be seen walking in and around Sharon, MA, where she lives. Linda enjoys her relationship with GCB and feels they are truly doing God's work.

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## SUNDAY WORSHIP AND LITURGY



At Grace Chapel Brockton, Sunday worship looks like our congregation: vibrant and diverse.

On Sundays, we infuse the Episcopal Holy Eucharist Rite II liturgy with inspired gospel songs, dancing, clapping and tambourines.

We invite our community to lift up the Prayers of the People in their native languages. While our primary language is English, at various times, you can hear Yoruba, Haitian Creole, English, Portuguese, or Swahili in the service. After Sunday school, our children join us for communion and blessings. We always end Sundays sharing coffee, snacks, conversation, and encouragement with one another.

In addition to the liturgy, we incorporate other interactive programs into our Sunday worship. On the first Sunday of the month, Rev. Moses preaches a sermon drawn from that week's Lectionary readings. We then identify a theme from the IESSP Curriculum that is aligned with the lectionary reading to explore throughout the month.

On the second Sunday, we hold an interactive Bible study. Everyone has the opportunity to ask questions and offer their own insight and wisdom on the gospel lectionary for the week.

On the third Sunday, we hold a hands-on empowerment workshop. Rev. Moses invites the congregation to talk about how the week's readings apply to our own lives. Where do we see ourselves in the scriptures? Everyone takes home a practical teaching to apply to their everyday life.

On the fourth Sunday, we share our testimonies. We call this "the Gospel According to the People" or "the Fifth Gospel." In these "lived gospels," members of our congregation share their life testimonies. People share how God is present in both their challenges and victories. Some people have yet to see victory over the obstacles in their lives, and need encouragement. We make space to pray for them then and there.

A mixture of liturgy and interactive programs enrich and grow our spiritual life together. We want everyone who attends or visits GCB to know the Gospel lives within them.

# OUR COMMUNITY

*By the numbers*



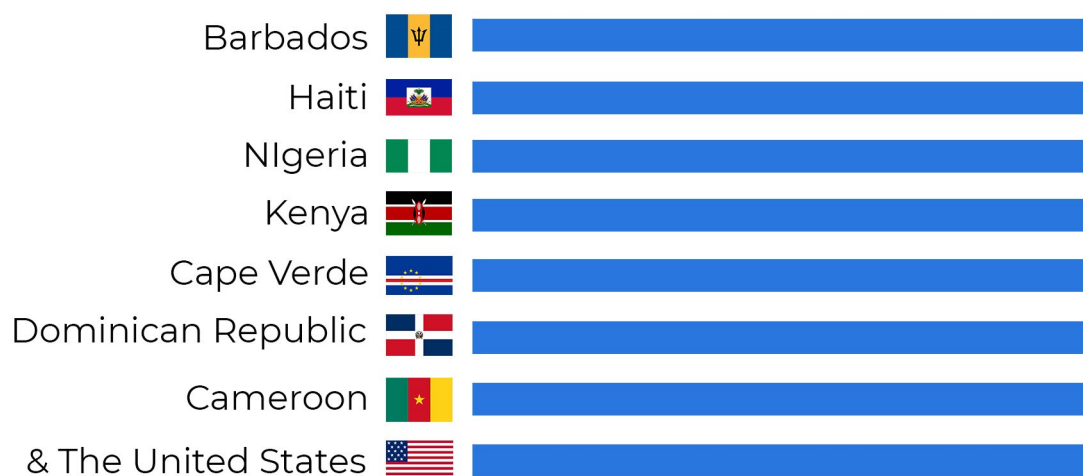
## TEN YEARS PROGRESS CHART

### LIVES TOUCHED BY GCB

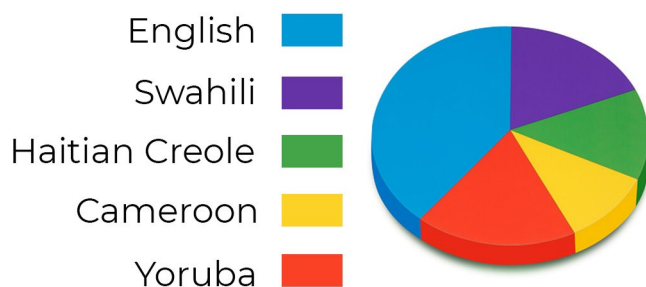
Total number of people associated with one of our ministries

 = 200 +

### NATIONS REPRESENTED



### LANGUAGE SPOKEN



### SACRAMENTS

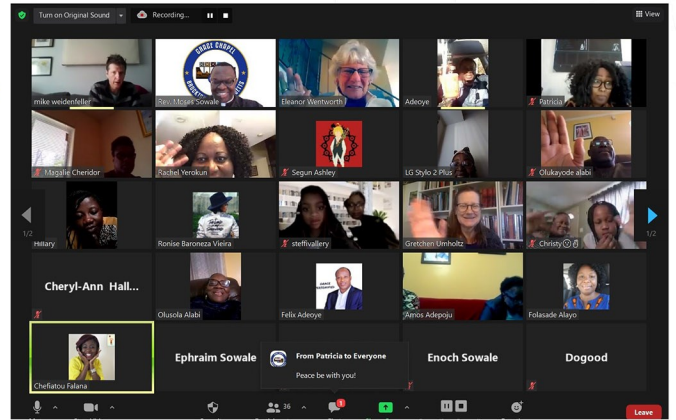
Baptisms	= 49
Confirmations	= 25
Marriages	= 6
Funerals	= 4



HOW MEMBERS IDENTIFY

=

Anglicans/  
Episcopalians 61%  
Non Anglican 38.5

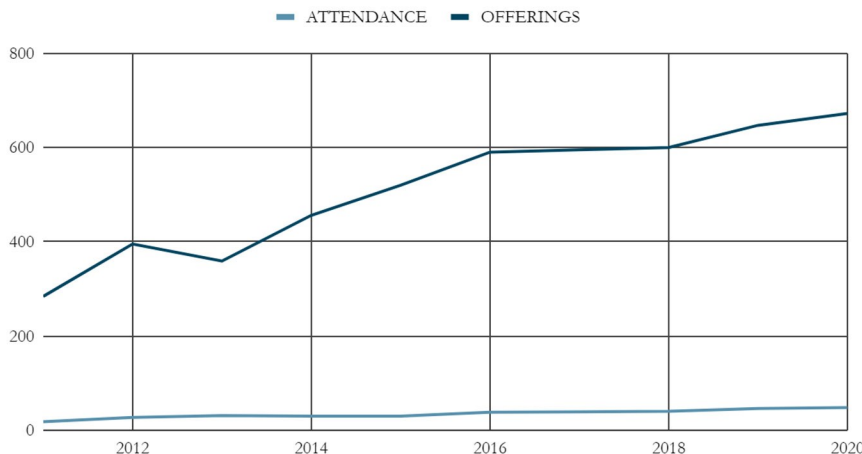


## SUNDAY ATTENDANCE & OFFERING

Total number of active, pledging and regularly attending members = 32

Average Sunday Attendance	Average Sunday Offering
2011 = 18	2011 = \$284
2012 = 27	2012 = \$395
2013 = 31	2013 = \$359
2014 = 30	2014 = \$456
2015 = 33	2015 = \$520
2016 = 38	2016 = \$590
2017 = 39	2017 = \$595
2018 = 40	2018 = \$600
2019 = 46	2019 = \$647
2020 = 45	2020 = \$672

Grace Chapel Sunday Attendance



# The Gateway City of Brockton

According to the Massachusetts Institute for a New Commonwealth (MassInc), “Gateway cities are midsize urban centers that anchor regional economies around the state.” Brockton is one of these “gateway cities,” home to approximately 90,000 people, including a large and diverse immigrant population. Once, plentiful manufacturing jobs bolstered Brockton’s economy. As those jobs have vanished, Brockton has struggled to flourish economically.

Geographic mobility and financial hardships are challenges in our city and congregation. Some of GCB’s members have to travel to our Brockton location, and are often unable to do so. Since the Covid-19 pandemic, we have seen an uptick in online church attendance. Even after we return to in-person services, we hope to continue engaging our online community.

Despite the challenges it faces, Brockton is far from a lost cause. On the contrary, Brockton and other gateway cities “retain many assets with unrealized potential” (MassInc). Brockton has the “existing infrastructure” and “disproportionately young and underutilized workers” that MassInc cites as assets to building a thriving city.

Brockton is home to so many talented and hardworking people. As many of our members face financial hardships, we strive to make GCB a center of encouragement and support.





# OUR PROGRAMS



## THE BRIGADE YOUTH PROGRAM

### Shaping the Future

As our former President Barack Obama said, “We do not fear the future; we shape it.” The Brigade Youth Program in Brockton is raising up young people who are shaping the future.

When Rev. Moses arrived in Brockton in 2010, he discovered families “struggling with their young people.” Searching for direction and support, these teenagers needed community.



“I thought, what can I do for them?” Rev. Moses recalls. He bought a piano, ordered pizza, and started a youth ministry. “We kept playing piano and ordering pizza. Our numbers grew, and I thought again, what can we do for them?”

Moses remembered how The Boys’ Brigade in Nigeria offered him purpose and belonging. Wanting to give that gift to Brockton youth, he set out to create a program to celebrate each child’s individuality, while building leadership skills and spiritual community.



Originally founded as a Christian youth program in Scotland in 1883, the Brigade program's core values are "Discipleship and Discipline." Sir William Alexander Smith, a Sunday school teacher and volunteer soldier, organized a bored, aimless group of boys in his class into a youth brigade centered on discipline and spiritual formation. The Brigade integrated marching band, sports, and hymns to instill discipline in the boys who lacked direction

The Brigade Youth Program in Brockton began in June 2011, welcoming boys and girls. Our youth now had the space to explore the scriptures, build new skills, go on field trips, and play instruments in our marching band.

On November 20, 2016, the Brigade Youth Program in Brockton officially joined a global network of Brigade programs with thousands of members worldwide. The Rt. Rev. Alan Gates officially inaugurated the first Boys' and Girls' Brigade in Brockton during a celebration of the Brigade's impact on Brockton youth. Friends and dignitaries including the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts' Rt. Rev. Bud Cederholm and the Anglican Church of Nigeria's The Ven. Dr. and Mrs. Julius Adekoya joined us for the occasion. The Brigade marching band and the Higashi School jazz band entertained our guests.

When the Covid-19 pandemic began in 2020, the Brigade program adapted. Instead of in our regular meeting space, we met on Zoom. Although nothing compares to in-person interaction, the kids still wanted to connect with each other. As we write this, 25-30 kids join us for the Brigade online every Saturday from 12 PM - 1 PM.

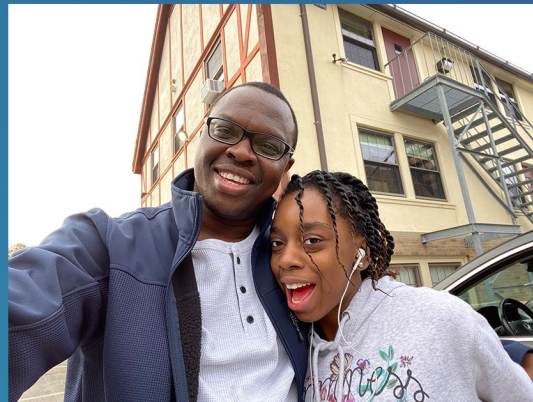
*To this day, the Brigade gives Brockton youth a place to make friends, explore their interests, and grow in their faith. Our kids often say they see their fellow Brigade members as their own siblings.*



## Sunday Sessions

Our Sunday school partnership with the First Evangelical Lutheran Church does not provide a program for teenagers, so we decided to use the energy around the Brigade to fill that need. We created a Sunday morning Brigade session for any teenager seeking spiritual community, regardless of whether they are members of GCB.

The Sunday Brigade session focuses on general faith discussion and formation. Brigade teenagers also participate in our Sunday services in many capacities.



## After-School Program

As our ministry grew, it became clear that some kids needed support not just on Saturdays or Sundays, but with their schoolwork during the week.

We set our sights on a new goal: expanding the Brigade program to include an after-school session during the week. Three days a week, we focused on academic tutoring, individualized mentoring, and music programs. Unfortunately, we had to suspend our after school program due to lack of space. Our hope is to provide a full week of after-school sessions for our community's youth in the near future.



# IESSP

IDENTITY - EDUCATION - SOCIAL - SPIRITUALITY - PLAN

Working with educators, parents, spiritual leaders, and volunteer mentors, Rev. Moses has developed an innovative program called the Identity Educational Spiritual and Social Plan (IESSP). He drew inspiration from the Individualized Education Plan for children with special needs in the education sector, and from the poem “They Are Singing Your Song” by Alan Cohen. Rev. Moses envisioned a world in which children have the guidance they need in every area of their lives.

Our Brigade kids use the IESSP to discover who they are. The IESSP calls on caring adults to nurture each child’s unique identity through their educational, spiritual, and social development.

We match kids with mentors, connect them to age-appropriate resources, and develop curricula for social and emotional learning. With this support, kids grow into confident, empathetic, spiritually-grounded adults.

## GOING PLACES

Transportation has been a challenge for the Brigade since its beginning. The majority of our Brigade members are children of single moms, who aren’t usually available to drop off and pick up their children from activities. To meet our kids’ needs, we offered transportation to and from the Brigade program, using parishioners’ personal cars and sometimes a hired bus.

However, this changed in 2018 when GCB was blessed with generous individual donations and a South Shore deanery matching grant. We used these funds to purchase a van especially for the Brigade.

On Easter Sunday 2018, we blessed our new 16-seater van, which we named “The Helper.” The Helper makes it easy for any child, no matter their income or family structure, to have fun and find spiritual belonging in the Brigade.



# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



In the Brigade, we make the most of every opportunity to celebrate. The Brigade has participated in the Brockton Holiday Parade, held a Christmas Carol & Concert, and organized a Community Parade with activities for all of Brockton.

Thanks to Christ Congregational Church holding the World Voices program in 2017, nine Brigade girls were able to commit to a weeklong winter break music program. The program ended in a wonderful concert, and our Brigade girls were featured on the front page of the Enterprise, Brockton's newspaper.



## BARBARA C. *Harris* Camp

GCB consistently brings in the highest number of youth to the Barbara C. Harris (BCH) Camp in New Hampshire. Every year since 2017, we have recruited and sponsored 30 campers for annual summer camps. Our high school kids have also participated in weekend retreats. Our wonderful GCB members drove kids to and from camp.

At BCH, our Brigade kids have the opportunity to hike, sleep in tents under the stars, do arts and crafts, and more. Most importantly, they have the opportunity to pray and worship with their Brigade siblings and make new friends from different parishes.

BCH camper fees come up to hundreds of dollars, which the majority of our kids can't afford. Thanks to a generous campership grant from BCH and a scholarship from the Rt. Rev. Alan Gates, all of our campers' fees were paid in full, including delicious meals and snacks.



Without our community's support and the Diocese's generosity, our children wouldn't have been able to have such unforgettable camp experiences.

## VISIT FROM THE **UNITED KINGDOM**

For several years, Brigade leaders in the UK had followed the Brigade Youth Program in Brockton on Facebook. In summer 2019, two UK Brigade representatives came to visit us. Over their two-week stay, they met our children and Brigade leaders and gave gifts. Our leaders exchanged ideas and discussed the challenges and joys of running our youth programs. We look forward to partnering with the UK leaders in the future to create an exchange program.



## The Brigade in **NIGERIA**



Rev. Moses has maintained a relationship with the Brigade in Nigeria over the years. To establish a Captain of the Brigade, that person must train with a certified officer in an established Brigade Company. Cheryl-Ann Hall-Hurley has been training with Nigerian Brigade Officer Titilayo Adenuga to become the Brigade Captain in Brockton. In the future, we hope to visit the Brigade in Nigeria and establish an exchange program.

# The Brigade's Village

We want to extend our sincere thanks and deep appreciation to our leaders, volunteers, partner churches, patrons, and patronesses for their commitment, prayers, and generosity. You are the village helping us raise the youth of Brockton!



## Patrons & Patronesses

Our patrons and patronesses are like the spiritual parents of the Brigade. Rev. Moses has selected Bishop Gates, Bishop Harris, Bishop Bud, Eleanor Wentworth, Gretchen Umholtz, Rachel Yerokun, Mr. Amos Adepoju, Mr. Isaac Alabi, and Mr. Abiodun Faleye as patrons and patronesses.

### They award several scholarships:

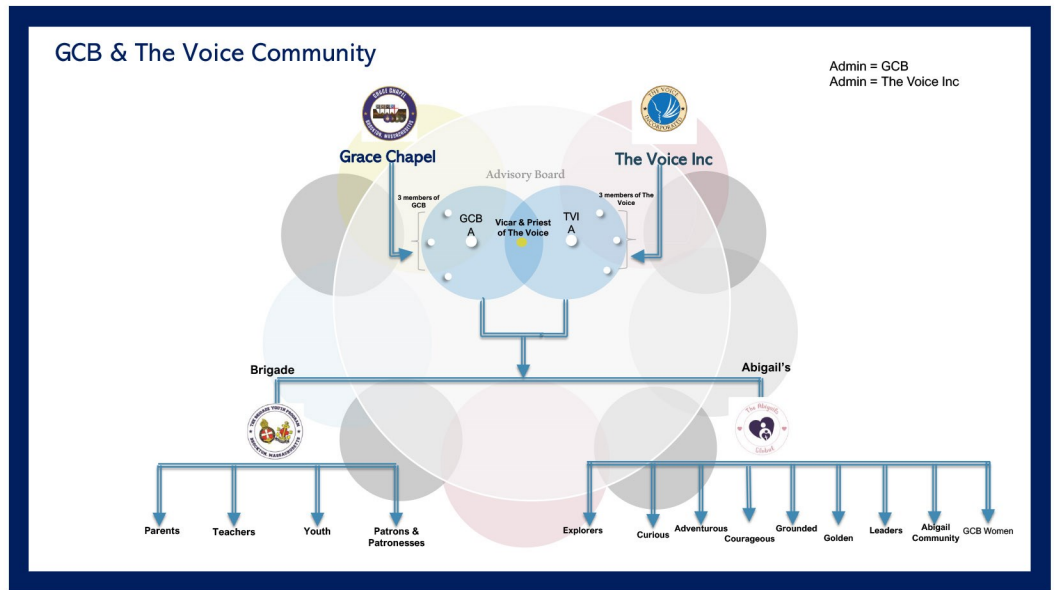
- The Bishop Gates Reconciling Spirit Award, awarded to a youth who brings people together across differences
- The Bishop Cederholm Creation Care Award, awarded to a youth who responds to the climate change crisis
- The Sowale's Best Brigade Member Award, awarded to a youth with a deep understanding of the Brigade's mission
- Fr. James Mwangi Biblical Knowledge Award, awarded to a youth with a special love for learning the Bible
- The Adepojus' Academic Award, awarded to a youth who demonstrates significant academic progress
- Ephraim Sowale Musical Instrument Award, awarded to a youth with enthusiasm and commitment in learning an instrument



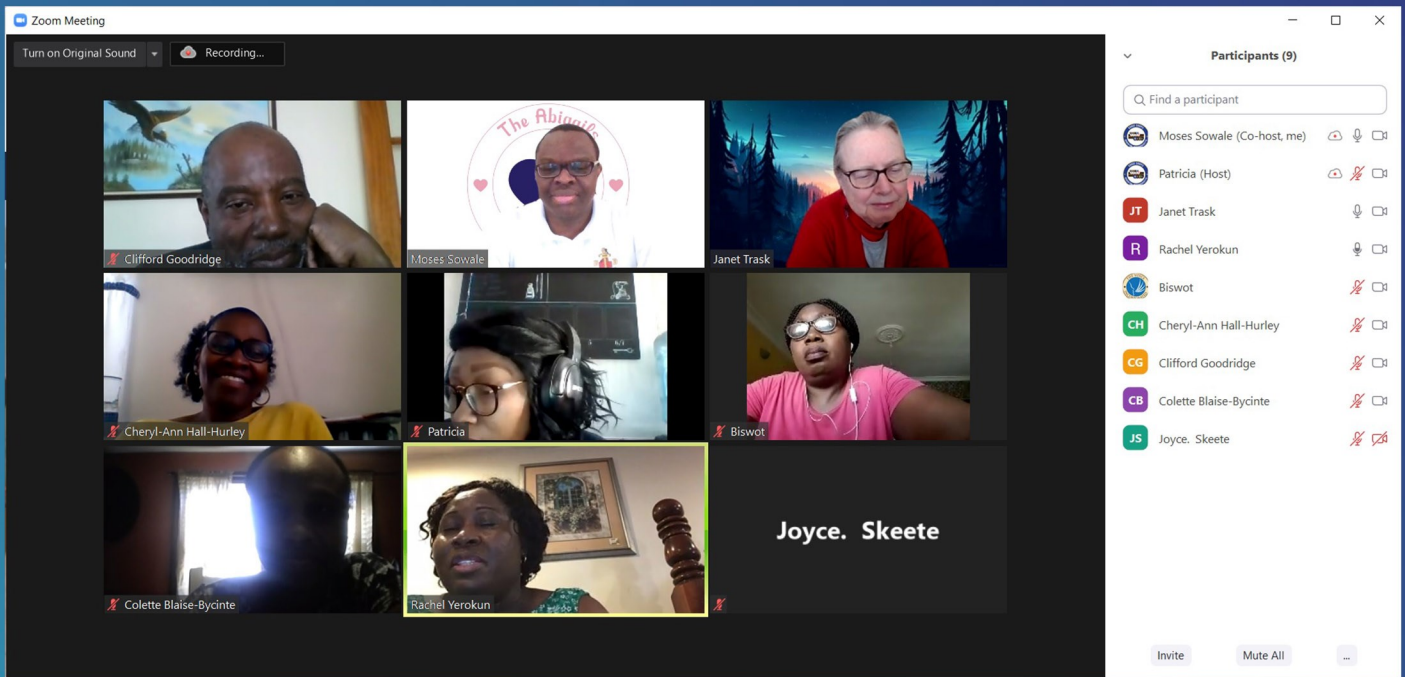
# Advisory Board

Our Advisory Board is a group of professionals, visionaries, and Christians who believe in the Brigade and the Abigails Program. This group oversees, advises, and supports the ongoing operation of

these two outreach ministries. The Advisory Board consists of two GCB members, two members of The Voice Inc., two Brockton community members, and the Executive Director. The Advisory Board reports to GCB's Executive Committee, and The Voice Board of Directors.

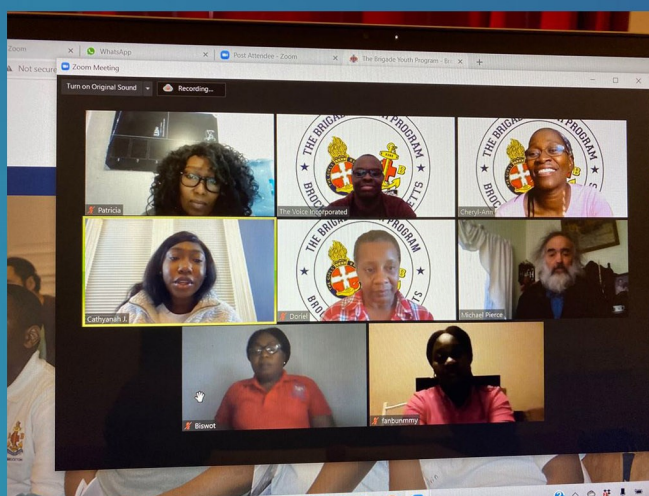


Admin = GCB  
Admin = The Voice Inc





# Teachers & Volunteers



*Teaching, cooking, driving, organizing – Teaching, cooking, driving, organizing – this is the hands-on support our teachers and volunteers offer the Brigade every Saturday. Our volunteers are Brockton neighbors, some of them members of The Voice Inc., passionate about supporting their community's youth.*

# VOLUNTEERS WITH THE BRIGADE

Are you passionate about empowering youth? Many special volunteer opportunities with the Brigade are available. If you or your church group have any of the skills listed below, we want to hear from you!



- Do you teach dance, musical instruments or singing, poetry and creative writing, or arts and crafts?
- Are you a professional career coach, mentor, counselor, or special education teacher?
- Do you have administrative and organizational skills?
- Would you or your church like to visit and cook a Saturday meal?

## Sponsor a Child

*You can change a child's life by sponsoring them. With your support, a child can experience all the Brigade has to offer.*

### A gift of

- \$25 will provide a child with one musical instrument lesson. \$150 will cover six lessons to establish a basic foundation in that child's instrument of choice.
- \$100 will feed 30 kids for one Saturday program.

- \$150 will provide a child with a year of Leadership Development, Field Trips, and Life Skill Training.
- \$200 will provide a child with one month of Afterschool Program support.
- \$600 will send a child to the Barbara C. Harris Summer Camp.

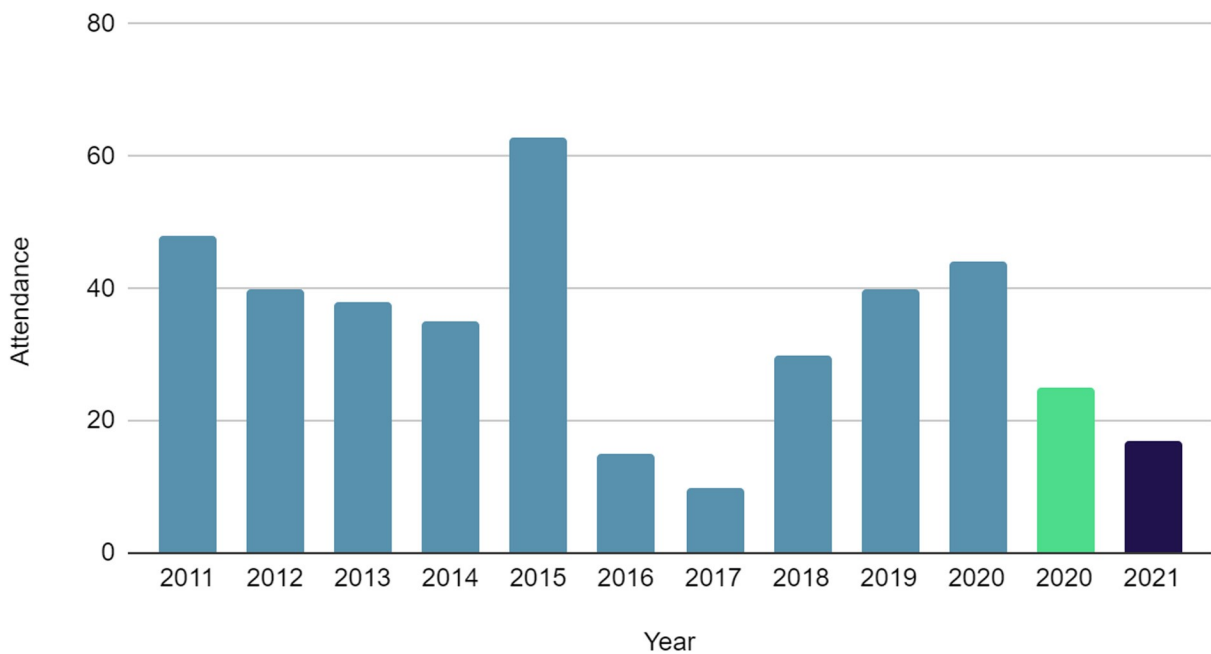
*For information about volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, please contact Patricia Druineaud at [gracechapelbrockton@gmail.com](mailto:gracechapelbrockton@gmail.com) or 508-649-3161. We accept donations via Paypal and by check.*

# THE BRIGADE

## BY THE NUMBER

Total number of youth impacted	150
Total number of registered youth	48
Average number of youth attending in-person meetings	44
Average number of youth attending Zoom meetings	25
Total number of youth in the Music Program	17

Brigade Attendance 2011-2020





# THE ABIGAILS

## THE ABIGAILS WOMEN'S PROGRAM

### Strong like Abigails

Our women's program finds its inspiration in two remarkable namesakes: the biblical Abigail and Abigail Adefuye Sowale.

Women in our community face unique challenges. Many are single mothers of children in the Brigade Youth Program. These mothers often work multiple jobs to make ends meet for their families.

It quickly became clear to Rev. Moses that women in our community needed greater support and care. Rev. Moses' own mother, Abigail Adefuye Sowale, raised him as a single parent after they lost his father when he was young.

The biblical Abigail, whose story is found in 1 Samuel 25, is a woman of many faces. Her wisdom, intercession, and boldness set her apart. Abigail used her vulnerability within the patriarchal society she lived in to confront an impending threat.

Inspired by his mother's and the biblical Abigail's vulnerability and courage, Rev. Moses envisioned the Abigails Program as a sacred space for women of all backgrounds and experiences.

A place where women could build community capacity and encourage one another. A place where women could share their wisdom. A place where women could lay down their burdens and heal.





He wrote a grant proposal to Episcopal City Mission (ECM), an organization which funds the program to this day, to start a women's group. The grant covers programming, childcare, life coaching, a get-away retreat, and counseling for women. 65 women gathered for a founding dinner on January 30, 2016, laying the foundation for the Abigails Program.

We sort members into six age groups: Explorers, Curious, Adventurous, Courageous, Grounded, and Golden. The Abigails meet monthly to encourage each other and grow together in their relationships and faith.

Under Comfort Sowale and her team's leadership, the Abigails Program has become a source of refuge, strength, and belonging for women in our community.

We believe that women can not only weather their challenges, but thrive. Every day, our Abigails embody the strength and vulnerability of the program's namesakes



## *Annual* RETREAT

It's often hard for women, especially single mothers, to find time to care for themselves. Our intention is for our Annual Abigails Retreat to give the women in our community much-needed time off. In 2019, five Abigails were able to go on a retreat to enjoy each other's company, build each other up, rest, and let themselves be taken care of. They returned empowered, reenergized, and relaxed. We look forward to establishing a regular retreat for the Abigails once we determine it's safe for our community.

## *Annual* REDEDICATION

The Annual Rededication is a tradition borrowed from the Mothers Union in the United Kingdom and Nigeria. The Mothers Union is traditionally for married mothers, however, the Abigails welcome all women, regardless of whether they are married or have children. Every January, the Abigails come together to rededicate their lives to Christ and reflect on their personal and communal achievements in the previous year. They also share what they hope to achieve in the coming year.



# OFFICIAL INAUGURATION

In November 2019, we invited Bishop Gayle Harris to officially inaugurate the Abigails Program in a service of song and celebration. Bishop Harris preached, gave gifts, and commissioned **Comfort Sowale** as **President** and the following women as *leaders of the Abigails*:



Colette Bycinte, *Community Organizer*  
Eleanor Wentworth, *Golden Group Leader*  
Betty Cambronne, *Grounded Group Leader*  
Kesy Baille, *Courageous Group Leader*  
Herlande Sineus, *Curious Group Leader*  
Victoria Edouard, *Explorer Group Leader*  
Jessica Rowell, *Women's Mental Health Consultant*

*We are grateful to the powerful women who lead the Abigails Program.*

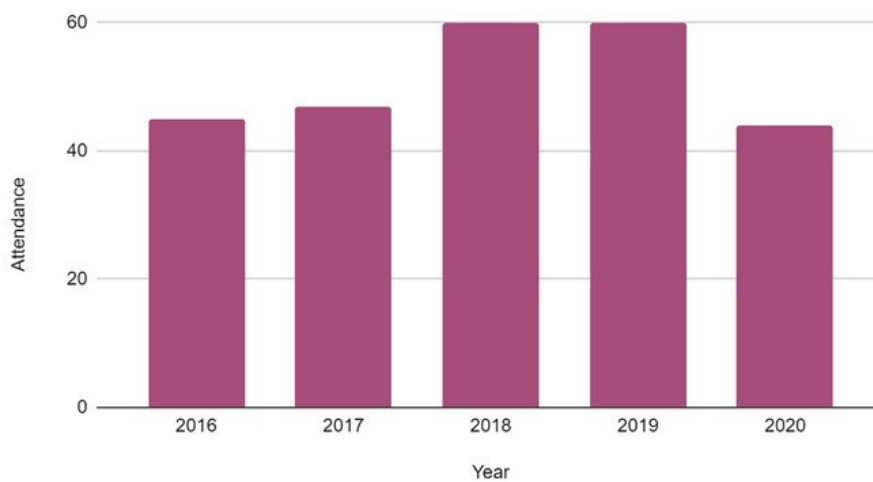


# THE ABIGAILS

## PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS

Total number of women impacted	185
Total number of registered women	160
Average number women attending	40

Abigails Attendance 2016-2020





# OUR RELATIONSHIPS



## The Church of Nigeria

Grace Chapel Brockton's relationship with the Anglican Church of Nigeria began long before GCB was ever established. The Church of Nigeria touched key aspects of Rev. Moses' life: his early home and family life, his education, and his vocation.

When Rev. Moses began ministering in the American Episcopal Church, he noticed the differences between the two churches. The American Episcopal Church and the Anglican Church of Nigeria are divided on theological and doctrinal issues.

GCB acknowledges the tension between our church leaders, for whom we have the utmost respect. We at GCB also wrestle with the complexity of our times, theologies, and doctrine. We strive to be a place of ongoing dialogue, mutual respect and reconciliation. Our leaders in the Episcopal and Anglican churches across the globe enrich our church with their wisdom and faith.



At GCB, we take solace in the words of our Lord Jesus Christ found in Matthew 13:24-30, referenced in Rev. Moses' earlier letter. We believe we must trust God, the wise farmer, and grow together until the harvest.

Currently, GCB's relationship with the Bishop in Nigeria relies on Rev. Moses and our faithful members from Ibadan North Anglican Diocese: the Alabis, the Yerokuns, and the Adepojus. We want to ensure that our parish always has a strong connection to the Church of Nigeria.

Our congregation has composed a letter to the Most Rev. Segun Okubadejo, Bishop of Ibadan North Diocese and Archbishop of Ibadan Province in Nigeria. In our letter, we express our sincere desire to establish regular communication, discuss the divisions in the Anglican Communion, and build on our existing relationship.

We accept members no matter their sexual orientation or gender, relating to one another in our love of Jesus Christ. Despite our differences, we seek to keep communication open with the Church of Nigeria. We don't see our differences as a problem to fix, but rather as a blessing. We hope to foster dialogue and promote Christ's love and mercy in Nigeria, and across the globe.





EST. 1994



## THE VOICE INC



### The Voice Inc.

The Voice Inc.'s vision long preceded its relationship with GCB. At age 18, Rev. Moses had a vision. God mandated him to be a Voice, as depicted in Isaiah 40: a Voice calling to raise up every valley; lower every mountain and hill; level the rough ground, make plain the rugged places; and prepare the way of the Lord.

Further inspired by a conversation with friends in June 1994, Rev. Moses founded The Voice Inc., a faith-based nonprofit organization registered in Nigeria and the U.S. Concerned with the socioeconomic inequality he witnessed in Nigeria and around the world, Moses sought to bridge the gap between people with different identities. To this day, the vision God gave him is being realized in GCB's partnership with The Voice Inc.

The Voice Inc., also sometimes known as The Fingerprint, is a group of lay and ordained men and women of all ages, political views, races, and Christian denominations. They have the mandate of using Christ's principles to help people claim their identity. Together, they advocate for social justice, acknowledge individuals' uniqueness, create spaces of belonging, provide for their community's basic human needs, and set people up for success. They want all who are alienated or silenced because of their unique differences to have a Voice.

As Rev. Moses puts it, The Voice Inc. is his spirit and hope for this world in an organizational form. When we recognize and honor each individual's beautiful authenticity, our world becomes a better place.





## EPISCOPAL CITY MISSION



It takes a village to sustain our impactful ministries, and our village would be incomplete without Episcopal City Mission

(ECM). GCB's relationship with ECM began in 2015 when Rev. Moses wrote grant applications for the Brigade Youth Program and the Abigails Program. ECM is a nonprofit organization that builds relationships and collective power across Massachusetts for racial and economic justice as the expression of God's transforming love. Investing in Episcopal communities and faith-rooted leaders is a crucial part of ECM's mission.

While the Diocese of Massachusetts provides the majority of our program funding, ECM provides grant funding for both the Brigade and the Abigails. Since 2015, GCB has received the Parish Partnership Grant totaling \$20,000 each year to distribute between both programs.

As a grantee parish, GCB attends ECM's Annual Meeting and Annual Celebration to continue strengthening our relationship and sharing GCB's work. GCB is the only parish that brings their youth to the Annual Meeting, inviting our kids into the processes and relationships that sustain our church. Grow With

# COME GROW WITH US

Are you feeling excited about GCB's transformative ministries? We would love to connect with you! We invite you to grow with us by giving your time, presence, or a donation as God leads you.

## Time

Can you see yourself volunteering with one of our ministries or with our church generally? Wherever your passions and skills lie, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Patricia Druineaud at [gracechapelbrockton@gmail.com](mailto:gracechapelbrockton@gmail.com) or 508-649-3161 for more information.

## Presence

Join us for worship online – and hopefully soon in person! GCB currently holds Sunday worship at 10:30 AM every week via Zoom. Please contact Patricia Druineaud at the email address or number above and visit us online at [gracechapelbrockton.org](http://gracechapelbrockton.org) for more information. If you feelled to become a member of GCB, please sign up here. We can't wait to welcome you into our church family!

## Donation

The less we have to fundraise, the more GCB can focus on meeting our community right where they are. You can donate via Paypal, or mail a check payable to Grace Chapel Brockton to 900 Main Street Brockton, MA 02301.

# WHERE WE COME FROM



In our parish, we come from many different places and perspectives – but we all grew together to establish a strong foundation for Grace Chapel Brockton. We owe our parish’s vitality and success to the Grace of God and a vast network of faithful people who believed in us.

## Our History

Grace Chapel Brockton’s story is about God bringing people together in unexpected ways and in an unexpected place: Brockton, Massachusetts.

In 2010, the Rev. Moses Sowale, an Anglican priest from Nigeria, moved with his young family to Brockton, MA. He was pursuing his graduate degree at Boston College. A few blocks from Rev. Moses’ home stood St. Paul’s Episcopal Church: a parish with a record of community engagement that was struggling to reinvent itself.

Rev. Moses’ first connection to the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts was through the Rev. Dr. David A. Killian of All Saints Parish Brookline. All Saints graciously covered part of Rev. Moses’ school expenses before he got his immigration papers, enabling him to continue his studies. Rev. Killian introduced Rev. Moses to the Rt. Rev. Bud Cederholm, a longtime proponent of Brockton and community outreach. Bishop Cederholm saw Rev. Moses’ passion for youth, women, and immigrant communities. He introduced Rev. Moses to St. Paul’s leadership, who hired him as Minister for Outreach in May 2010.

St. Paul’s, however, was coming to an end. Upgrading and repairing the church would have required approximately one million dollars. Although the Diocese determined St. Paul’s needed to close, they did not want to lose this new spark of vitality ignited with Rev. Moses’s leadership.

A powerful network of faithful individuals continued to emerge. Eleanor Wentworth, a longtime St. Paul’s member, and Gretchen Umholtz, a new addition to St. Paul’s leadership team, shared Rev. Moses’ enthusiasm for community outreach. Two Nigerian Anglican couples living in Boston, the Adepojus and the Alabis, already knew Rev. Moses. Inspired by his vision, they were willing to drive any distance to be a part of his new work in Brockton.



That new work began with door-to-door outreach, Bible study, and a new early Sunday morning worship service. Grace Chapel Brockton launched on Sunday, August 8, 2010. Rev. Killian continued supporting Rev. Moses and sent representatives from All Saints Parish Brookline to the first Sunday service at GCB.

Relationships with other parishes have always been integral to our church's thriving. Thanks to Bishop Cederholm's vision and wisdom, GCB partnered with the First Evangelical Lutheran Church (FELC) at 900 Main Street in Brockton, our physical church home to this day. We made history on Sunday, February 20, 2011 when Bishop Cederholm presided over a joint service for FELC and GCB in our shared building. Our partnership with FELC has helped our church grow into the diverse, distinctive parish it is today.

In addition to a physical home, GCB also needed an administrative home within the Diocese. Initially, St. John's Holbrook provided this administrative support, and welcomed us as part of their own parish's budget and outreach. Several St. John's members loved joining us for worship and supporting our ministries. In 2013, we celebrated an important milestone: we graduated from the nurturing care of St. John's and grew into a more independent direct ministry of the Diocese. Since that time, all our operating expenses except for salaries and benefits are covered by our own members' giving and fundraising efforts. We are so grateful to everyone at St. John's Holbrook for their love and support.

GCB has been blessed to have relationships with bishops and faith leaders inside and outside the Episcopal Church. We celebrated our first anniversary on Saturday August 6, 2011, followed by a historic thanksgiving service that Sunday. Bishop Cederholm presided over the Holy Communion with Archbishop Segun Okubadejo (then Bishop) of the Church of Nigeria Ibadan North Diocese as preacher.

In 2014, the Rt. Rev. Samuel Sowale of the Church of Nigeria Ilesa Diocese preached and worshipped with us. In 2015, the Rt. Rev. Alan Gates of the Diocese of Massachusetts preached at the morning service for the FELC. In 2018, the Rt. Rev. Gayle Harris of the Diocese of Massachusetts brought words of hope and healing to GCB.



Most recently, Bishop James Hazelwood of the New England Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church preached at a joint Good Friday service for GCB and FELC.

We have had the honor of hosting the Most Rev. Michael Bruce Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. In 2018, Presiding Bishop Curry visited the Diocese of Massachusetts. Our bishops in Massachusetts thought that GCB's commitment to youth empowerment, immigrant support, and ecumenical partnership made it the perfect choice for his Sunday morning visitation site. In 2019, Presiding Bishop Curry led us in an ecumenical service with FELC. Presiding Bishop Curry delivered a sermon about the need for peace through the love of God, especially in light of religious bigotry that has culminated in shootings at places of worship.

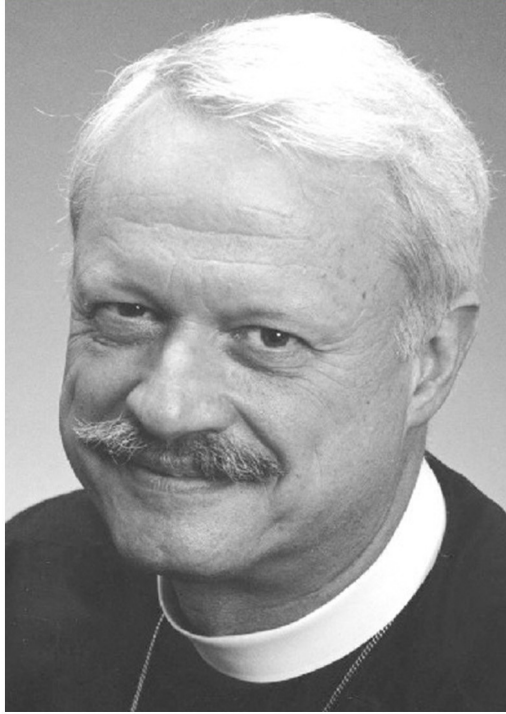
In May 2018, we celebrated a milestone: GCB became an official Mission of the Diocese, with greater autonomy and responsibility in running and paying for our operations. In November 2018, at the Diocesan Convention, the Diocese of Massachusetts admitted GCB as a mission. The Diocese invited our members, the Brigade Youth Program, and the Abigails Program to the convention, and they sang "Oh When the Saints" in celebration. Rev. Moses expressed our gratitude and reaffirmed our devotion to growing our ministries

We continue to benefit from generous grant funding as part of the Diocese's support for Mission Initiatives. The Diocese's commitment to Brockton and our work signifies that many people, including ones we have never met, value what we do and believe in who we are.

Of course, it is our relationships with the youth, women, and men of GCB that remain the most important. These ministries are the ones that Rev. Moses has held in his heart from the beginning, the initial spark that eventually lit GCB. Our ministries seek to meet people where they are and walk alongside them as they grow into their true identity in God. Each year brings a larger and more committed group of volunteers and leaders for the work of the Brigade. The Abigails program continually offers fellowship and support to girls and women of all ages. The Men of Grace, the most recent addition to our ministries, helps men find encouragement and community.

As we reflect on our rich history of relationship and reinvention, we look to the future with hope. God has a plan – and we know He is not finished with GCB or Brockton yet!





## The Rt. Rev. Roy "Bud" F. Cederholm Jr.

*The Rt. Rev. Roy F. Cederholm Jr.*, known as Bud, was born in Brockton, MA, in 1944. He is a Boston University graduate and went to seminary at Bexley Hall Divinity School in Rochester, NY. Bishop Cederholm was ordained to the priesthood in the Diocese of Massachusetts in 1972.

He served as rector of Christ Church Needham from 1989 until 2000, when he was elected as Bishop Suffragan in the Diocese of Massachusetts. Alongside the Rt. Rev. M. Thomas Shaw, SSJE and the Rt. Rev. Gayle Harris, Bishop Cederholm provided oversight for diocesan congregational development. This included clergy and congregation transition ministry, congregational business consultants, leadership development, collaborative ministries, and ministry to clergy families. His leadership and participation in the Diocese's summer Family Camp made it one of the Diocese's most popular events.

A gifted teacher and preacher, Bishop Cederholm is an active voice and witness for environmental stewardship. Sometimes known as the "Green Bishop," he works passionately to engage God's people in advocacy devoted to reversing climate change. Bishop Cederholm and his wife, Ruth Ann, have two sons and five awesome grandchildren.



### The Rev. Dr. Moses Sowale

*The Rev. Dr. Moses Sowale* is a Grace-filled son, husband, father, counselor, and active voice for women's empowerment and youth development. He was raised in Nigeria by a single mother after he lost his father at an early age. He grew up in Immanuel College of Theology Ibadan, Oyo State, where his eldest brother, Bishop Samuel Sowale (then the Rev. Dr. Sowale) lectured.

He attended Immanuel's elementary and high schools before studying Electrical Engineering at Kwara State Polytechnic. However, God called him to ministry – and Moses returned to his childhood home, Immanuel College of Theology, for his seminarian studies. He was ordained into the priesthood in July 2003.

In Nigeria, Moses served in Ibadan at Bishop Akinyele Memorial Anglican Church and St. Paul's Anglican Church Yemetu as curate and youth chaplain respectively. Pursuing his passion for empowering women and youth through pastoral care, Moses founded The Voice Inc. Christian Center for Family Development, Pastoral Care, and Counseling. While engaged in these ministries, Moses completed his Bachelor's degree in Religious Studies at the University of Ibadan in 2006.

Moses' gift for pastoral care led him to seek further education in the United States. At Boston College (BC) in Massachusetts, Moses earned a Master's degree in Pastoral Ministry (Care and Counseling) in 2009. While studying at BC, Moses served as an associate priest and Sunday school teacher at All Saints Parish Brookline. After earning his Master's, Moses worked as a counselor at Advocates Inc and continued pursuing his pastoral education.

## The Rev. Dr. Moses Sowale

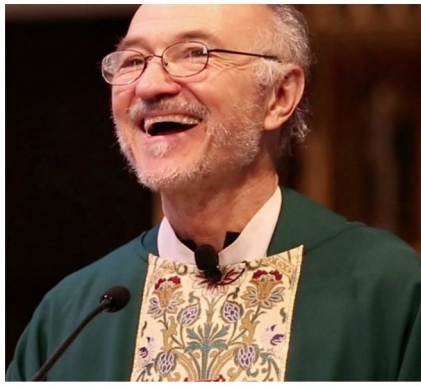
In 2010, Moses served as Missioner for Outreach at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Brockton, and went on to launch a new congregation called Grace Chapel Brockton. He has served at GCB as Missioner and Vicar ever since.

Moses earned his Doctor of Ministry from the Episcopal Divinity School (EDS) in Cambridge. At EDS, he received the Jonathan M. Daniels Fellowship Award, recognizing his work in Brockton and The Voice Inc.. The South Shore Leadership Conference awarded Moses with the Outstanding Faith, Justice, and Leadership Award in 2016 at the South Shore Regional Community Excellence Awards.

Rev. Moses is a pioneer of the Theology of Uniqueness. He created the IESSP (Identity, Educational, Spiritual and Social Plan) Curriculum that asserts we can both achieve equality and celebrate our uniqueness. He strives to be a bridge between people and groups with differing views. His greatest goal is to tell his story in all its glories and imperfections so he can empower others to embrace their own stories as sacred.

Moses enjoys playing lawn tennis, online soccer, and networking. Moses is married to Comfort, and they are blessed with two boys.





## The Rev. Dr. David A. Killian

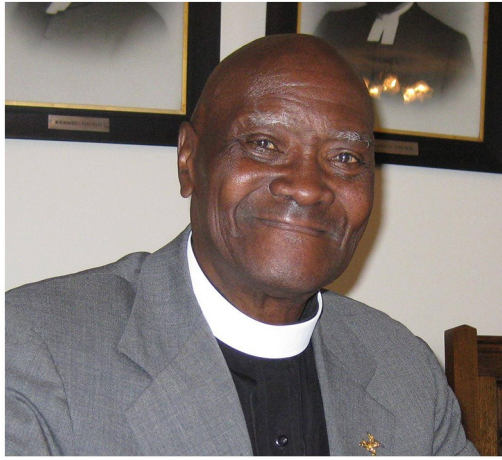
The Rev. Dr. David A. Killian was born in 1940. Rev. Killian served as rector of All Saints Parish for 20 years, making him that parish's second-longest serving rector. Committed to interfaith dialogue, Rev. Killian made All Saints Parish Brookline a place that supported people of all faiths on their spiritual journeys.

During Rev. Killian's tenure, the parish's attendance grew and increased its educational activities and outreach. He founded the Ruah Interfaith Spirituality Institute in 1992, drawing on his prior experience as the executive director of the Interfaith Counseling Center. This program assembled outstanding speakers from Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, and Hindu traditions to share their spiritual heritages.

Rev. Moses' first connection to the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts was through the Rev. Dr. David A. Killian of All Saints Parish Brookline. All Saints graciously covered part of Rev. Moses' school expenses before he got his immigration papers, enabling him to continue his studies. It was Rev. Killian who introduced Rev. Moses to Bishop Bud Cederholm, who connected him to St. Paul's leadership in Brockton. Rev. Killian continued supporting Rev. Moses and sent representatives from All Saints Parish Brookline to the first Sunday service at GCB.

In addition to rector of All Saints, Rev. Killian served on the boards of many organizations. He was president of the interfaith Brookline Clergy Association, a board member of the Massachusetts Episcopal Clergy Association, and a member of the Diocese's Standing Committee and Diocesan Council. He also edited the clergy newsletter of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts.

Prior to becoming an Episcopal priest, Rev. Killian was a 25-year member of the Paulist Fathers, a religious order of priests in the Roman Catholic Church. Rev. Killian retired from his service as rector of All Saints Parish in 2012.



## The Late Rev. James Mwangi Kangethe

*The Rev. James Mwangi Kangethe*, known as Fr. James, was born in Kenya in 1926. He graduated from Makerere University in Uganda with a certificate in Veterinary Science. After accepting the Lord in 1950, he received the call to ministry in 1962. He was ordained in 1971 in the Diocese of Nakuru by Bishop Langford Smith. Fr. James ministered in many roles: as air force chaplain, Christian rural worker, and a director of theological education.

Fr. James lost his first wife, Tabitha, in 1986. He went on to marry Victoria, a Christian evangelist and supportive wife and mother, in 1992. In 1999, he relocated to the U.S. to join Victoria, who worshipped at All Saints Cathedral in Worcester, MA.

In November 2003, Fr. James was licensed to officiate in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts and went on to preach in several churches. In 2006, Fr. James and his family moved to Brockton and served at St. Paul's Episcopal Church with the Rev. Jackie Schmitt.

Fr. James served as a voluntary Associate Priest with Rev. Moses at GCB Episcopal-Anglican Church in Brockton, Massachusetts. Fr. James was a conservative in faith and a liberal in action, in perfect alignment with GCB's mission to break down barriers between people with differing views.

A gifted teacher, preacher, counselor, and theologian, Fr. James was fluent in Swahili, Kalenjin, Luhya and English. He was also an athlete and enjoyed playing soccer. Fr. James passed away at the age of 90 in 2016, blessed with seven wonderful children.



## Amos and Agnes Adepoju

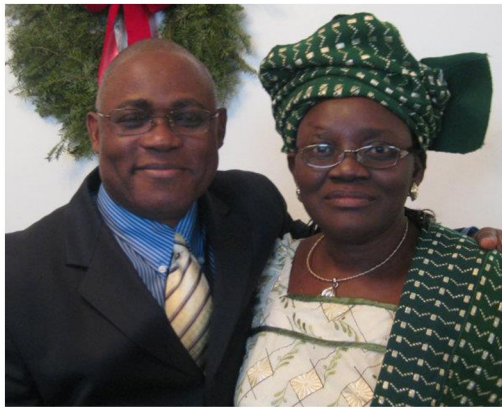
*Amos Adepoju* was born in Igbo-Elerin, Osun State in 1940, to Daniel Ishola and Maria Foyake Adepoju. He was originally baptized in the Methodist Church, but went on to join the Anglican Church. Though born a Muslim, Agnes went on to become a devout Christian and prayer warrior.

The Adepojus married in 1976, living and working in Ibadan. Amos became involved in the local Anglican Church in the 1980s, serving as a Pastor's Warden for several years at Bishop Oyebode Memorial Anglican Church.

His passion for evangelism led him to study theology and earn a certificate from Immanuel College of Theology in 1995. Through his beloved late nephew, Pastor Matthew Akinade, he won a visa lottery and the Adepojus relocated to the United States in 1996.

As parents, the Adepojus provided consistent love and care for their children despite economic hardships. The couple taught their children from a young age the meaning of hard work and a purposeful life. They built a respectable home on unshakable love for one another and for God. These values shaped Amos and Agnes' children, who grew into successful, thriving adults.

The Adepojus played a vital role in the founding of GCB, offering all their support, love, and energy. Amos is currently a patron of the Brigade Youth Program. Amos and Agnes' children have also been supportive of GCB.



### Isaac & Olusola “Sola” Alabi

*Isaac Olukayode and Olusola Alabi* were both born into traditional Muslim and Anglican families. Isaac grew up in Ikere Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria and Olusola grew up in Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria.

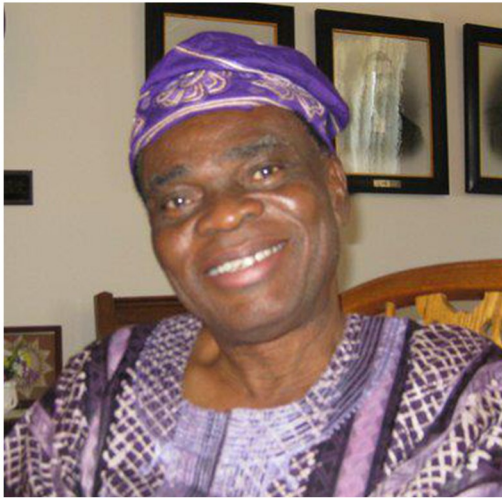
Isaac and Sola married in 1979. They traveled to Italy where Isaac studied mechanical engineering at the Institute of Technology, Citta di Castello, Italy from 1980 to 1982. He then worked at Leventis Motors Lagos when they returned to Nigeria. The Alabis both worked at Oyo State Teaching Service Commission Ibadan until 2003.

Isaac’s first church was St. John’s Anglican Church in Ikere Ekiti, where he was a member of the band and church choir. He was baptized by immersion by the Rev. Atibioke. Olusola was a member of St. Paul’s Yemetu Anglican Church and St. James Cathedral in Ibadan. Both Isaac and Sola were confirmed at St. Luke’s Church Molete by the Rt. Rev. G.I.O. Olajide.

The Alabis were members of YMCA St. Luke’s Molete, Ibadan South Diocese and the Emmanuel Society at Christ Evangelical Anglican Church Alakia, Ibadan North Diocese. At both churches, Isaac served on the Parish Church Council. Sola served in the Women’s Guild and Mother’s Union at St. Luke’s, and as an usher at Christ Evangelical

Isaac and Sola both played a vital role in GCB’s founding. Sola has served as the Chief Usher, and Isaac is a patron of the Brigade Youth Program. The couple’s children, Tolulope and Ifeoluwa, have also supported GCB from the beginning. Ifeoluwa has filled various roles including Treasurer, Altar Server, and Sunday School teacher.

Isaac enjoys playing soccer, following sports, singing, and playing the harmonica and drums. Olusola enjoys cooking, organizing, and reading.



## **Bababunmi Babatunde & Dr. Violet Osunsanya**

*Bababunmi Babatunde Osunsanya* was born in Lagos in 1945. Bababunmi completed his Advanced Level education at the Federal School of Science in Onikan, Lagos. He was a member of Christ Church Cathedral Choir in Marina, Lagos.

Bababunmi relocated to Budapest, Hungary, where he studied Biochemical Engineering at the Budapest Technical University. He completed his industrial training at the Hungarian Breweries Kobanya Hungary. In 1974, he married Dr. Violet Bodunrin Osunsanya, nee Fshina, in Budapest. Their marriage has been blessed with children and grandchildren.

Bababunmi enjoyed a successful, trailblazing career in the brewing industry. He pioneered the use of local, raw materials in beer brewing in Nigeria, which led many other companies to do the same. Even in retirement, he is active and innovative in his field. He started a bottling company

in Ibadan which processes and bottles palm wine. He is a member of many professional and academic organizations.

Bababunmi came to know Rev. Moses through his friends the Alabis and the Adepojus. In the early days of GCB, he joined the burgeoning church's formational meetings. Bababunmi and Violet have remained faithful members ever since. He is active in GCB's community online from his home in Nigeria. When the Osunyanas are in Brockton, they worship at GCB in person.

He is a committed chorister at the All Saints Church in Jericho, Ibadan, Oyo State. He enjoys classical and church music.





## Asmaru Senesie George

Asmaru Senesie George, also known as Kadijah, was born in Freetown, Sierra Leone, in 1981. Born into a Muslim family, her grandmother raised her in the rural part of Bo Town.

Asmaru's Christian faith journey began at 11 years old. She remembers hearing her neighbors singing Christian praise and worship songs, and feeling happy. She told her grandmother she wanted to join them. Asmaru's faith grew as she started singing with her neighbors, and eventually began attending church and participating in church plays.

Asmaru immigrated to the U.S. in 1997. She attended Boston College in 2007, where she met Rev. Moses. When they met, she was facing some difficult times. Rev. Moses immediately encouraged Asmaru to never give up, which helped her.

Many years later, she joined GCB, which she has found to be a true house of Christ. She finds each encounter with GCB life-changing, building her up for her faith journey. According to Asmaru, GCB is a house of love. Asmaru is a member of the Abigails and volunteers with the Brigade Youth Program.

Asmaru is a mom, wife, and EHR Administrator. She enjoys exploring different cultures, creating recipes, hiking, the beach, and reading to her daughter.





## Eleanor Wentworth

Eleanor Wentworth, also known as Ellie, is a lifelong Episcopalian. She graduated from Stonehill College with a degree in Data Processing, Business Administration, and Finance. She retired as a Senior Financial Analyst from a large student loan company.

Before its closure, Ellie and her family had been members of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Brockton for 44 years. She served on the St. Paul's Table committee, serving the hungry in Brockton, as well as St. Paul's LLC, a neighborhood revitalization organization. Eleanor also served as a Sunday School teacher in all grades and co-chaired the Youth Group.

Ellie is the former President of Brockton Business and Professional Women, Chair of Brockton's Commission on Women's Issues, Chair of Brockton Neighbors United Board of Directors, and has served on the Brockton's Promise steering committee. She has received many awards for her contributions to her community.

Eleanor has organized many community events including peace walks, neighborhood fun fests, Neighborhood Watch, and multicultural events. She has volunteered at the Boys' Detention Center, Mainspring Homeless Shelter, and supervised visitations for parental visits of domestic abuse victims.

She is a devoted member of GCB, who has served joyfully in various capacities including Altar Guild Coordinator, Clerk to the Executive Committee, Warden, Deanery Representative, Patroness of the Brigade, and more. We are thankful for her service to our community.



## Gretchen Umholtz

Faith and the church have always been a part of Gretchen Umholtz's life. Gretchen was born in 1959 in Glen Ridge, New Jersey, the eldest child of a Presbyterian minister. Her interest in the Bible and its original languages led her to study Greek in college. Ultimately earning a PhD in Classical Archaeology, she now teaches at UMass Boston, where she sometimes has the privilege to teach Biblical Greek.

While studying in Athens, Greece during graduate school, Gretchen found a church home in St. Paul's Anglican Church. Her love of English Commonwealth music and traditions grew when she worshipped at Central Presbyterian Church in Ontario, Canada.

Upon moving to Massachusetts in 2002, she joined the Episcopal tradition. She was confirmed by Bishop Bud Cederholm and became a member of Church of Our Saviour, Middleborough. Gretchen moved to Brockton and joined St. Paul's Episcopal Church's Executive Committee. Since St. Paul's closure and GCB's establishment in 2010, Gretchen has been a deeply faithful member and advocate. She has at various times been a choir member, childcare provider, Clerk, Warden, and now, Treasurer.

GCB has enriched Gretchen's life with powerful experiences of the word and sacraments, new styles of worship, and working with inspiring people of faith from diverse backgrounds. She is grateful to be part of this lively adventure and challenging faith mission.



# GROW WITH US

Do you see yourself joining the GCB family? We invite you to grow with us by giving your time, presence, or a donation to GCB as God leads you.

## **Time**

GCB is always looking for passionate volunteers to support and invigorate our community life. Please contact Patricia Druineaud at [gracechapelbrockton@gmail.com](mailto:gracechapelbrockton@gmail.com) or 508-649-3161 for more information.

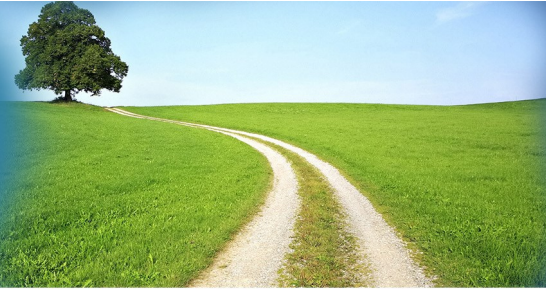
## **Presence**

Join us for worship online – and hopefully soon in person! GCB currently holds Sunday worship at 10:30 AM every week via Zoom. Please contact Patricia Druineaud at the email address or number above and visit us online at [gracechapelbrockton.org](http://gracechapelbrockton.org) for more information. If you feel led to become a member of GCB, please sign up here. We can't wait to welcome you into our church family!

## **Donation**

With your financial support, we can continue building on our strong foundation and pour into our community as they pour into us. You can donate to GCB via Paypal, or mail a check payable to Grace Chapel Brockton to 900 Main Street Brockton, MA 02301.

# WHERE WE'RE GOING



With our strong, faithful membership and solid foundation, we at Grace Chapel Brockton look to the future with hope, determination, and excitement. We are a parish of relationship and reinvention, and we know the best is yet to come. We invite you to grow with us as we step into what God has for our future.

## Meeting the Challenge

Grace Chapel Brockton has overcome many obstacles with community strength, Diocesan support, and God's grace, and will continue to do so. Like all other parishes, we meet challenges as we map out our future.

### ***Fostering Connection in a Busy, Distracted World***

Sunday worship attendance has visibly increased in the past year. Presently, GCB has 50 worshipping members and 250 members associated with one of our ministries. However, fostering connection in a busy, distracted world can be challenging.

GCB is a church of working people – and particularly working single mothers. Many individuals in our congregation have demanding work schedules that often require them to work weekends to provide for their families. This can make it difficult for them to attend Sunday services.

Family extracurriculars can also affect members' ability to join us on Sunday. In many households, if they are able, children play sports or dance – activities that can consume the family's schedules. More and more competitions and tournaments take place on Sundays.

This is to say nothing of the distractions found in most everyone's pocket: at any given moment, we are susceptible to distraction by social media, games, or streaming services on our phones.

We remain optimistic amid these challenges. Most people cannot control their work schedules – but we can find creative ways to make church more accessible to them. All parents want their children to pursue their passions and develop skills, and through the Brigade there are many opportunities for kids to do just that. We also know technology can be a bridge of connection instead of a wall of distraction. We are committed as a church to finding ways to meet our community where they are, as they are.

## FUNDING OUR VISION

GCB has a committed core of lifelong church members with strong weekly giving habits. Unlike many established churches, however, a great deal of our members face significant financial hardships.

2019 was a year of opportunity and challenge. It was GCB's first year as an official Mission of the Diocese of Massachusetts. Our primary funding from the Diocese (a \$104,000 Mission Initiatives Grant) was \$40,000 less than in 2018.

While there are many potential funding sources for our special programs, there are virtually none for regular church operating expenses. In 2019, our Finance Committee and Executive Committee worked to maximize grant applications and identify ways for special programs to cover appropriate shares of our rent and staff salaries.

This strategy helped to alleviate, but not prevent, reductions in staff hours and salaries. Most notably for 2020, GCB was no longer able to meet the Diocese's salary and benefit guidelines for a full-time Vicar. Consequently, Rev. Moses has been employed by GCB at 70% time.

Despite this, we can see growth in frequency, consistency, and amount of weekly offerings in several of our members. By the grace of God, GCB has continued its work with gifts, grants, staff hour reductions, and staff downsizing. We remain hopeful that continued growth in our congregation and increased funding for programs will help us meet our financial challenges.



# FINDING A BUILDING WE CAN GROW IN

GCB rents its physical space with the First Evangelical Lutheran Church. We have access to a small chapel space with a capacity for 70 people and an office space for the Vicar and administration.

While we use the space to the best of our ability, our primary challenge is lack of sufficient space. We have one conference room and three small classrooms to host all ministry programs. Particularly when it comes to the Brigade, there is no appropriate space for sports, music lessons, or to hold events. The Brigade's After-School program relies on volunteers, and we do not have adequate space for staff to provide supervision and mentoring.

As we write this, we worship and do our program activities online in light of Covid-19. This brings the unexpected blessing of new members being able to join from around the world. When in-person services resume, acquiring a building that allows for multiple ministries to meet simultaneously would be ideal. Our vision is to secure a physical home with room for GCB to worship, learn, play, and grow.

# OUR 10-RESOLUTION PLAN

We are forging a bold path forward for Grace Chapel Brockton. We believe we can meet the challenges we face, and meet our community's need for a place to grow together in fellowship.

At the February 2021 Annual Parish Meeting, we passed a 10-Resolution Plan to sustain and expand GCB's life-giving work. Our 10-Resolution Plan is as follows.

## *Lay Leaders Retreat & Empowerment*

We will assemble at least 12 lay leaders and as many members as possible to participate in a weekend-long retreat. The retreat's purpose is to strategically organize for GCB's success through prayer, reflection, gratitude, and bonding. During the retreat we will equip lay leaders to guide GCB with ownership, commitment, and accountability.

The retreat will involve prayer and worship, lectures, discussions, and organizational roadmapping. We hope to hold our retreat in-person if we determine it is safe for our community to gather.

## *Online Presence and Engagement*

We will build an engaging website and social media presence to communicate GCB's value and vision. Collaborating with a web designer, we will support new members with an aesthetically pleasing, user-friendly website. A strong, consistent social media presence will help current members share with their friends what GCB has to offer, drawing in new members.

## *Parish Profile*

We resolved to write a parish profile that communicates the unique value GCB adds to the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts. You are reading that document right now. Our parish profile will help us nurture in our congregation a sense of shared identity, and show people how we celebrate the beauty and blessing of our uniqueness in Christ.





# EPISCOPAL-ANGLICAN RELATIONSHIP



We will establish a real, formal relationship between GCB, the Diocese of Massachusetts, and the Church of Nigeria. We hope to lay the foundation for a rich friendship between our churches that will yield positive results for Christians around the globe.

As our members are able to visit their homes in Nigeria, they will return to their churches there and share about how GCB is breaking down walls created by our differences. Between these visits and the letter our congregation wrote to Archbishop Segun Okubadejo of Ibadan Province, we will begin bridging the divide in the Anglican Communion.

## **INTENTIONAL TEACHINGS SERIES ABOUT THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH - EPISCOPAL 101**

We will explore a series of intentional teachings about the Episcopal and Anglican Churches called Episcopal 101. The series will provide a forum for members to discuss and deepen their understanding of theology, liturgy, the holy sacraments, and confirmation. This will allow people to make an informed decision about membership.

## **ANNUAL WELCOMING SERVICE**

We will honor new GCB members with a formal welcoming service and reception once a year. We are developing a welcoming team that will help people officially become members, answer new members' questions, and direct them to GCB programs that will enrich their spiritual lives.

## **REIMAGINING OUR FINANCES & FUNDRAISING**

We will increase our total internal revenue to at least \$50,000 annually, and think beyond offerings to fund our ministries. Through The Voice Inc., a faith-based nonprofit founded by Rev. Moses, we will explore funding opportunities outside the Episcopal Church, while GCB will continue to explore resources within it.

To achieve this goal, we seek to hire a financial manager and grant writer. Our financial manager will help us locate grant funding and individual donors passionate about our mission. We also plan to hold fundraisers for the Brigade, the Abigails Program, and at the Annual Harvest & Anniversary Thanksgiving service. With greater financial freedom, our leadership will be able to



## MUTUAL MINISTRY REVIEW

We will implement regular mutual ministry reviews for our leaders, employees, and volunteers. Reviews will affirm our employees' and volunteers' strengths and gifts, illuminate areas for growth, and celebrate their accomplishments. This will help GCB support its lay leadership and ordained ministers.



## A NEW BUILDING

We will secure a building in Brockton that provides the space we need to worship, learn, and celebrate together. We will find a building that accommodates sports activities for the Brigade and larger ministry events as needed. Having a physical church home for GCB will also create a stronger sense of communal identity.

## PARTNERSHIP WITH THE VOICE INC

We will enhance the partnership between GCB and The Voice Inc. to continue expanding, supporting, and diversifying GCB's work. The Voice Inc. and its principles are the bedrock of GCB's ministries and outreach. Our goal is for GCB to clarify the bound and boundaries of its partnership with The Voice Inc., enabling the church to take ownership of The Voice Inc.'s values and principles independently.





# GROW WITH US

We envision a church where everyone can grow together and honor how God made each one of us unique. Whether it is through your time, presence, or a donation, your support will help us forge a bold path for our next 10 years of ministry and beyond.

## ***Time***

We need volunteers of all skills, passions, and interests, especially as we put our 10-Resolution Plan into action. Please contact Patricia Druineaud at [gracechapelbrockton@gmail.com](mailto:gracechapelbrockton@gmail.com) or 508-649-3161 for more information.

## ***Presence***

Join us for worship online – and hopefully soon in person! GCB currently holds Sunday worship at 10:30 AM every week via Zoom. Please contact Patricia Druineaud at the email address or number above and visit us online at [gracechapelbrockton.org](http://gracechapelbrockton.org) for more information. If you feel led to become a member of GCB, please sign up here. We can't wait to welcome you into our church family!

## ***Donation***

As GCB pursues greater prospects for our ministries, we will need greater support. You can donate via Paypal, or mail a check payable to Grace Chapel Brockton to 900 Main Street Brockton, MA 02301.

We give thanks to God for carrying Grace Chapel Brockton this far, and for everyone who has embodied God's vision for our church – including you.

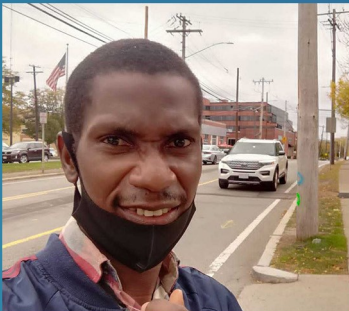
With your support and God's unceasing grace and mercy, our ministries will reach new heights! May the next 10 years allow us the honor of growing together in abundance, humility, and God's love. Hallelujah! Amen.

*Grace Chapel has blessed me since 2015 when I became a member”*

Nothing else brings me more joy than when we gather together every Sunday for worship. My spiritual needs are met with prayer and participating in the choir. No one else can replace Rev. Moses Sowale and what he has done for Grace Chapel, I would not change a thing.



*Eunice Derizen*



*Grace Chapel has been an experience of faith renewal for me*

It has something spiritual that many churches have lost. Reverend Moses has a personal, unique way of teaching the life of Jesus and His purpose for each person that attends. His sincerity and unlimited giving of himself drives each of us to do our best to support each other in our faith journeys. We feel for each other as a real family does, but more so in that we are able to let go of old ways and teachings. We do not feel tied down to follow or change our own understanding of the Christian faith.

*Eleanor Wentworth*

*My greatest moments with GCB have been Sunday services and Tuesday Prayer Meetings*

*I have been a member since October 2020, I inquired about Grace Chapel via the internet and sent a message to Rev. Moses who gave me directive. I pray that GCB continues to keep the good work which the Lord has started and fulfill the sole purpose of her existence. I pray that Rev. Moses continues the work which the Lord has entrusted into our hands*

*Odafe Louis*



We are allowed to grow without being corrected or intimidated. Brockton's diverse community needs the presence of Grace Chapel's uniqueness and diversity. Too many are felt lost or unwelcome if they don't fit into the many congregations in Brockton. Each visitor here is welcomed in a personal way and if they choose to come back, are invited to participate in one of our many committees in one way or another.

*Eleanor Wentworth*



*Grace Chapel is more than a place of worship for me*



*It's a place where I am free to express my feelings without condemnation. They take you as you are and work with you on your journey to salvation. The diversity, the culture, and the intimacy we share among each other bring joy to my heart. It's a place where love abounds among all members. When I am there, I am at peace and I leave the place every Sunday filled, blessed, and prepared to face the challenges of the up-coming week. I wish the church will continue to function with your support of assistance, and the doors will be kept open, so more people can be blessed like me.*

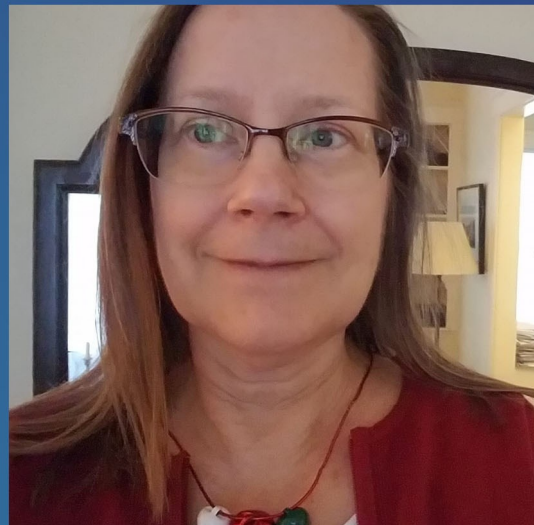
*Agnes Adepoju*

*I have been a member of Grace Chapel  
from its beginning and rejoice in its  
growth and flourishing*

I was away overseas for a year and when I came back it was as if the church had passed already from childhood to vigorous adolescence: so many new people bringing their energy and talents and amazing life experiences, and such flowering in the skills, commitment, and service of members who had not previously held leadership roles

What makes all of this possible is Grace Chapel's radical commitment to respecting who each person is, wherever they are in their life's journey. We are able to look at ourselves, and to interact with each other, with an honesty, flexibility, and openness that would not be possible without the deep confidence that we are beloved and worthy, respected and safe, in a place where we are known and seen as God's unique creations, growing together in his love and service."

*Gretchen Umholtz*



# PICTURE ALBUM



# COME GROW WITH US

